

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 T-03

OMB-01 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 IO-12 INT-08 RSR-01

(ADP) W

----- 029501

R 121340 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2340
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 1680

E. O. 11652 - GDS
TAGS: PBOR, AF, IR, PK
SUBJ: AFGHAN/IRANIAN RELATIONS - HELMAND WATERS

REF: KABUL 1653

1. SUMMARY: IN RADIO ADDRESS EVENING MARCH 10, PM SHAFIQ OUT-
LINED STEPS RECENTLY TAKEN BY BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND IRAN TO RESOLVE
HELMAND WATERS ISSUE. PM STATED THAT DRAFT TREATY HAD BEEN AGREED
TO BY BOTH PARTIES AND WOULD SOON BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT
FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF IRANIAN PRIME
MINISTER HOVEYDA' S IMPENDING ARRIVAL TO SIGN PROPOSED TREATY.
HOVEYDA ARRIVED FOR TWO- DAY VISIT MARCH 12.
END SUMMARY

2. PRIMIN SHAFIQ HELD INFORMAL SESSION WITH PRESS AFTERNOON
MARCH 10 AND SPOKE ON RADIO THAT EVENING ON SUBJECT HELMAND
WATERS. MAIN POINTS IN SPEECH WERE:
(A) HELMAND WATERS BELONG TO AFGHANISTAN BUT AS THEY ALSO FLOW
INTO IRAN AND PEOPLE THERE DEPEND ON IT FOR SURVIVAL, LONG
STRUGGLE OVER WATER RIGHTS MUST BE RESOLVED IN SUCH WAY THAT
BOTH PARTIES ARE SATISFIED;
(B) COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OF ALL ISSUES IS VERY COMPLEX AND IT IS
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MORE IMPORTANT NOW TO SETTLE MAJOR POINTS (I. E., AGREEMENT ON SALE OF WATER WILL BE HANDLED LATER);
(C) SETTLEMENT INCLUDES (1) TREATY TO FIX AMOUNT OF WATER GOING TO IRAN AND HOW IT IS TO BE MEASURED AND (2) TWO PROTOCOLS DEALING WITH ARBITRATION OF DISPUTES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF REGULATORY COMMISSIONS ON BOTH SIDES; AND
(D) FINAL DECISION AS TO AFGHAN ACCEPTABILITY OF TREATY WILL REST WITH PARLIAMENT AND KING.

3. PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILS NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT WE ASSUME PM MADE STRONG PITCH FOR TREATY ON BASIS ITS ADVANTAGES TO AFGHANISTAN. PRO- GOVERNMENT ISLAH AND ANIS CARRIED EDITORIALS MARCH 12 URGING SUPPORT FOR AND APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT. ENGLISH LANGUAGE KABUL TIMES EDITORIAL ON MARCH 11 ALSO WELCOME AGREEMENT.

4. NOTEWORTHY ASPECTS OF PRIMIN' S SPEECH WERE (A) HIS CAREFUL TREATMENT OF PARLIAMENT AS EQUAL PARTNER OF GOVERNMENT WITH AUTHORITY TO REJECT GOVERNMENT' S ACTION (B) HIS REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF HELMAND VALLEY FOR ITS " GREEN GOLD " AND SUBSEQUENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FOR AFGHANISTAN, AND (C) CONFIRMATION THAT AGREEMENT CONSISTS OF TREATY AND TWO PROTOCOLS. PRIMIN OBVIOUSLY TREATING PARLIAMENT WITH KID GLOVES SINCE FEELING AGAINST AGREEMENT IS STRONG ON PART MANY DEPUTIES.

5. DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST AGREEMENT WERE AGAIN HELD IN KABUL MARCH 11 AND 12. ON MARCH 11 KHALQ HELD MEETING BUT DEPUTY AMIN, FEATURED SPEAKER, WAS INTERRUPTED BY POLICE AS SOON AS HE SPOKE AGAINST AGREEMENT AND CROWD WAS ORDERED TO DISPERSE. IT DID AT ONCE. ON OTHER HAND, PARCHAM MEETING ON MARCH 12, WHILE FORCED AWAY FROM ZARNEGAR HILL BY POLICE, WAS HELD IN FRONT OF KABUL MUNICIPALITY BUILDING UNDER POLICE SURVEILLANCE; BUT POLICE MADE NO EFFORT PREVENT DEPUTY BABRAK FROM SPEAKING. BABRAK CASTIGATED " RULING REACTIONARY AUTHORITIES OF AFGHANISTAN " AND " IRANIAN MILITARISTS " FOR THIS AGREEMENT AND ECHOED SENTIMENTS ON MANY SIGNS WHICH SAID " HOVEYDA, GO HOME. " " GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO SELL SOIL, AIR OR WATER ". HE WARNED RGA OF CONSEQUENCES THEIR AGREEMENT WITH IRANIAN " IMPERIALISTS AND EXPANSIONISTS " AND SAID RGA WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBSEQUENT CRITICAL SITUATION. BABRAK ALSO CALLED UPON IRAN, AS CREATURE AMERICAN AND BRITISH IMPERIALISTS, TO STOP MACHINATIONS AGAINST BALUCHIS AND PASHTUNS. CROWD WAS LARGEST SEEN IN KABUL IN RECENT MONTHS
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AND PERHAPS NUMBERED UP TO 10,000.

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(ADP) W

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R 121340 Z MAR 73
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2342
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 1680

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6. EXCERPTS FROM PM' S SPEECH FOLLOW:

" DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS: WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF
UNTYING A KNOT WHICH HAS PUZZLED US FOR A CENTURY. I WAS
AFRAID THAT THE PASSAGE OF TIME WOULD HAVE CAST SHADOWS OF
DOUBT OVER PROSPECTS OF ITS SOLUTION. WATER IS THE ESSENCE
OF LIFE, AND YOU CAN NOT FOREGO IT EVEN IF THIS MEANS LEASING
LIFE TO OTHERS... " THE TIME HAS COME FOR WE AFGHANS AND IRANIANS
IN THE TRADITION OF NEIGHBORS, TO BRING REALITY INTO LINE WITH
RIGHTS: THAT IS, TO ENSURE THAT THE AMOUNT OF WATER TAKEN IS
THE AMOUNT OF WATER THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN. THIS CONFORMS NOT
ONLY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF BROTHERHOOD, BUT, AS A PASHTO
SAYING GOES, IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF IT...

" TODAY I SHALL FURNISH A RESUME OF THE FINAL STAGE OF TALKS IN
AFGHANISTAN' S PARLIAMENT WHEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITU-

TION I GIVE A SPEECH THERE. AT THIS, AND PREVIOUS STAGES
THERE ARE POINTS WHICH DUE TO CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL INTERESTS,
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WE CANNOT DISCUSS IN DETAIL EXCEPT IN A CLOSED SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. OF COURSE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT CAN DECIDE, ON THE BASIS OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN THEM, WHETHER TO MAKE THESE POINTS PUBLIC IN A WAY WHICH IN THEIR OWN JUDGEMENT BEST ENSURES AFGHANISTAN'S INTERESTS...

" WHETHER THE SOLUTION IS SUITABLE HAS ALWAYS BEEN JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF TWO FUNDAMENTAL STANDARDS. FIRST, THE SOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE ALIEN TO THE NATURAL AND GEOGRAPHIC FACTS, AND SECOND THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN SHOULD SEE IN THAT SOLUTION THE REALISATION OF THEIR COUNTRY'S INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY THE NEEDS OF THEIR COMPATRIOTS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN THE LOWER HELMAND VALLEY...

" THE TEXT WE ARE PREPARING PUTS INTO WORDS THE SOLUTION TO WHICH I HAVE REFERRED. THE BASIC DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT OF A TREATY TO FIX THE AMOUNT OF WATER FOR IRAN AND EXPLAIN HOW THIS WATER SHOULD BE TAKEN. COUPLED WITH THIS BASIC DOCUMENT THERE ARE TWO OTHER DOCUMENTS WHICH REGULATE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMISSARS ON BOTH SIDES AND THE QUESTION OF ARBITRATION AT TIMES OF CONTROVERSY. WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN WE SUCCEED IN SIGNING THE DOCUMENT THE SHADOW OF THIS PROBLEM WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS FOREVER...

" ALL THIS TIME AFGHAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN TRYING NOT TO CREATE FRESH PROBLEMS IN THIS FIELD, BY REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH IS NOT ALL-EMBRACING, OR IS UNREALISTIC. SOLVING SUCH PROBLEMS MIGHT TAKE ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS OF THE LIFE OF THE TWO NATIONS.

" DURING THIS LATTER PERIOD WHEN I HAD CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH THE PROBLEM OF WATER FROM THE HELMAND RIVER, I HAVE BEEN LOOKING BEYOND IT. WE HAVE SPECIAL DUTIES TOWARDS OUR COMPATRIOTS IN THE LOWER REACHES OF THE HELMAND, THE FULFILLMENT OF WHICH SHOULD NOT BE FURTHER POSTPONED...

" WE KNOW FULL WELL THAT THE HELMAND RIVER HAS NOURISHED RICH CIVILISATIONS IN THIS VALLEY. IF WE TAME THIS WILD RIVER WITH THE MENTAL AND PHYSICAL POWER OF OUR PEOPLE WE WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THINGS IN THAT PRECIOUS PART OF OUR COUNTRY WHICH WILL MEET OUR OWN REQUIREMENTS AND MAKE OTHERS, NEAR AND FAR, LOOK TO US FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THEIR NEEDS...

" THE PRESENT DAY WORLD INCREASES ITS DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS AT THE SAME SPEED AS IT ADVANCES IN THE FIELD OF
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INDUSTRY. NEEMROZ AND ITS BASIN SHOULD BE CALLED THE LAND OF GREEN GOLD. " I THINK IT IS A RIGHT OF THE YOUTH, TEACHERS, STUDENTS, WRITERS AND NATURALLY THE PARLIAMENT MEMBERS TO BE CONSTANTLY WORRIED ABOUT THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY...

" THE FINAL WORD AS TO THE NATURE OF THIS INTEREST RESTS WITH AFGHANISTAN' S PARLIAMENT, WHICH REFLECTS THE WILL OF THE NATION, AND WITH HIS MAJESTY THE KING WHO EXEMPLIFIES NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

" IF THEY APPROVE OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE, I AND MY COLLEAGUES WILL FEEL HIGHLY HONORED AT HAVING RENDERED GOOD SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY. IF THEY DETECT AN ERROR IN OUR JUDGMENT WE STILL FEEL HONORED THAT THE STATE CONSTITUTION WILL NOT ALLOW THE MISTAKE OF ONE GOVERNMENT TO BE IMPOSED ON PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN." NEUMANN

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